Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet

March - April 2004

The Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet is a bimonthly publication that is intended to keep tribal enhancement staff abreast of current hot issues. For more information on any of these topics please contact the designated person at (360) 438-1181 and the listed extension number.

Process and Timelines For Hatchery Reform Implementation and Puget Sound NEPA Review (Terry Wright, ext 336):

- On May 18, the co-managers on the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (HRCC) will meet with the facilitation team to develop a plan for completing the regional co-manager reconciliation process. Each regional meeting requires compilation of recommendations, descriptions of current FBD programs and other existing production agreements.
- The new regional agreements will be used to modify the Future Brood Document (FBD) and hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs) and to develop joint monitoring plans, following the framework and guidelines developed by the co-manager staff and the framework of the co-managers' Hatchery Resource Management Plans (RMPs), which describe the process for adaptive management of hatcheries. The region-specific meetings will occur between June and December 2004.
- An updated paper titled "PROCESS AND TIMELINES FOR REVISING
 HATCHERY PROGRAMS COMPLETING PUGET SOUND NEPA REVIEW AND
 PROVIDING INPUT FOR THE PUGET SOUND SHARED STRATEGY" was
 recently transmitted to you and also has been posted on our Enhancement
 Services' web page. It is intended to help clarify how this process will work and
 how it fits with other ongoing hatchery reform efforts of the co-managers.
- An HSRG and co-manager technical group has developed tools and a
 description of the conceptual approach to key hatchery reform topics. In addition,
 the co-managers have developed a draft spreadsheet (soon to be posted on our
 website) for tracking changes to hatchery programs.
- A wrap-up technical meeting (June 10 or 11, 2004) including full participation from tribal and WDFW enhancement technical staff will review each of the discussions and demonstrate the tools that are described in the attached memo.
- Co-manager policy meeting (mid-June, 2004), will review information and provide policy guidance for use in subsequent regional co-managers meetings to finalize production programs.

Hatchery Resource Management Plans Completed (Ken Currens, ext 374):

 The tribes and WDFW provided NOAA Fisheries with two resource management plans (RMPs) for hatcheries on March 31, one for Chinook salmon and one for the other species.

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Update on the Puget Sound Hatchery EIS Process (Dietrich Schmitt, ext 339):

- The public scoping meeting process for recently submitted co-manager Chinook and Non-Chinook RMPs will begin in the second week of June.
- Four meetings have been scheduled and will occur in Mount Vernon, Seattle, Belfair and Port Hadlock on June 7th, 8th,14th, and 15th respectively.
- The purpose of these meetings is to receive input from the general public as to which issues should be discussed in the EIS process.

Hatchery Risk Assessment Modeling Project (Ken Currens, ext 374):

 Preliminary versions of the interactive hatchery risk assessment tool that Ken presented at the last Enhancement Steering Committee meeting should be available in July and will be posted for you to try on our website.

Puget Sound Chinook and Summer Chum Salmon Taken Off ESA List—Temporarily! (Ken Currens, ext 374):

- We can expect a temporary delisting of Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon under the Endangered Species Act as NOAA Fisheries complies with Federal Court decisions and before they complete a new listing process.
- As a result of lawsuits taking advantage of the Federal Court (Hogan) decision to invalidate ESA listing of Oregon coho salmon, the listing of Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon may be invalidated.
- NOAAF has already determined that based on a new hatchery policy (which is supposed
 to address the problems identified by the Federal Court and the lawsuits) Puget Sound
 Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon will still need to be protected under ESA
 and they will relist the species.

Status of the 2005 Future Brood Document (Dietrich Schmitt ext 339):

- The second draft of the 2004 Future Brood Document was released on May 12th. Please review the draft to see that approved changes were correctly incorporated into the document. If you find errors, please contact Kelly Henderson (WDFW) by July 1st at (360) 902-2684 or by email at hendeksh@dfw.wa.gov.
- The 2004 FBD will be finalized by the end of July. The second draft will be available for review on NWIFC website at: http://www.nwifc.org/enhance/fbd.asp.

Status the Co-Managers' Disease Policy Revision Efforts (Bruce Stewart, ext 338):

- Co-manager fish health staffs are still in the process of drafting revisions to the Co-Manager's Disease Policy. As soon as we are able to reach consensus at the technical level on specific revisions, they will be sent to tribal enhancement biologists for review and comment.
- Some of the proposed changes include:
 - Eliminating egg health management zones and managing egg transfers on a watershed level
 - o requiring testing for *Myxobolus cerebralis* (parasite that causes whirling disease) every three years at surface water facilities that transfer fish between watersheds
 - o requiring virus testing on juvenile fish reared on surface water prior to transfer

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Mass Marking Initiative Update (Ron Olson, ext. 335):

• Tribal representatives are meeting with Representative Norm Dicks on May 24th to discuss marking plans and funding needs.

Status of Hatchery Tech Workshops (Jim Bertolini, ext 355):

- The "Release and Planting Methods for Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries" workshop was held on April 7, 2004 at the NWIFC Conference Center. Total attendance was 49 participants.
- The workshop was available via video-conferencing at the Commission's offices in Forks and Mt. Vernon. We hope to provide this option for future workshops.
- Workshop handouts are available upon request. Check with your pathologist.
- Our next workshop will be held in August and will cover some aspect of spawning, fertilization and egg incubation. We'll keep you posted on date and content.

New Fish Geneticist Hired (Ken Currens, ext 374):

• The NWIFC has hired Adrian Spidle, a geneticist who has been working on Atlantic salmon issues on the East Coast but who did graduate work on coho salmon in Big Beef Creek, to replace Willy Eldridge. Adrian will be at the NWIFC starting in September.

Miscellaneous Items

- The deadline for requesting either ERM or Vibrio vaccine for your program in 2005 is Friday, May 28, 2004. Contact either your fish pathologist or Jan Gleckler at the Tribal Fish Health Center (360) 438-1181 ext. 340 if you have more questions.
- Bill Finkbonner (Skookum Creek Hatchery, ph: 360-595-2142) has developed an
 interesting variation on backpack leaf-blowers that allows easy feeding of raceways and
 small ponds. He's found the advantages to be less shoulder wear from the repetitive
 feeding motion, speed of feed delivery, and good feed distribution. Photos of the feeder
 can be seen on our website.
- The Puyallup Tribe has recently opened their new Clarks Creek Hatchery. This hatchery
 has incorporated some innovative natural rearing features into the hatchery design. For
 more information or for tours of the facility contact Blake Smith (253-845-9225).

Documents available to view on our Enhancement Service's web page at www.nwifc.org/enhance/hotsheet:

- Process and timelines for revising hatchery programs completing Puget Sound NEPA review and providing input for the Puget Sound Shared Strategy
- Hatchery Reform Project Spreadsheet This document will be posted as soon as the last of the HSRG recommendations for coastal programs are entered.
- Photo's of an innovative back pack feeder Skookum Creek Hatchery